

SLAVERY.

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF MAINE,

Relative to Slavery.

JUNE 20, 1856.—Ordered to be printed.

RESOLVES relating to Slavery.

Resolved, First. That human slavery is, in all its aspects, an unqualified evil and wrong, and, as such, merits the reprehension of mankind.

Second. That in the early periods of our national history, both the opinions of the people and the policy of the government were adverse to the institution.

Third. That the constitution of the United States is, and was designed to be, a charter of liberty, and hence that all acts of the national government by which slavery maintains a legal existence in territory subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of Congress, are in direct conflict with the whole spirit and with the clear provisions of that instrument.

Fourth. That the act of the thirty-third Congress, repealing the law of 1820, known as the Missouri Compromise, by which slavery was forever prohibited in the territory north of the parallel of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes, was an unjustifiable violation of a solemn compact and a flagrant breach of faith.

Fifth. That Maine will never consent to the admission into the federal Union of any more States with constitutions authorizing slavery.

Sixth. That the act of eighteen hundred and fifty, called the "Fugitive Slave law," is unconstitutional, and odious to the whole North; Maine, therefore, demands its immediate and unconditional repeal.

Seventh. That it is the duty of the general government, without delay, to abolish slavery wherever it has exclusive jurisdiction, and to exert its influence whenever and wherever it legitimately may on the side of universal liberty. Therefore

Resolved, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives requested, to use all practicable means to secure the passage of the following enactments:

First. An act repealing all laws of the United States authorizing slavery in the District of Columbia.

Second. An act repealing the statute of eighteen hundred and fifty, known as the Fugitive Slave law.

Third. An act forever prohibiting slavery or involuntary servitude, except for crime, within the territories of the United States.

Resolved further, That our senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives requested, at all times hereafter, most strenuously to oppose in every justifiable way the admission of any new State into the Union, except upon the condition to be embraced in the act of admission that slavery or involuntary servitude, excepting that for crime of which the accused shall have been duly proved guilty, shall be forever prohibited therein.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolves to each of our senators and representatives in Congress, and to the governors of each State, with a request that the resolves be laid before the legislature thereof.

In the House of Representatives, March 17, 1855.—Read and passed.
SIDNEY PERHAM, *Speaker*.

In Senate, March 17, 1855.—Read and passed.

FRANKLIN MUZZY, *President*.

Approved March 17, 1855.

ANSON P. MORRILL.

A true copy.—Attest:

A. JACKSON,
Secretary of State.